

a third (31-100) of the head's length. The head itself is not so large, forming only a seventh of the total length. Finally, the first dorsal spine is represented as being nearly over the axilla of the pectoral fin. M. Poey distinguishes it further from his *A. altivelis* in his correspondence as follows :

“Le 337 diffère du 619 par 15 fois la hauteur dans la longueur totale, au lieu de 13. La tête 7 fois au lieu de 6½. De la base de la pectorale à la base de la ventrale, il y a la même distance que jusqu' à l'anale, moins ¼, au lieu de moins ½. Premier rayon-dorsal ½ de l'autre au lieu de ½. Le 2e égal le 1er. Le 4e est le plus grand. Du 6e au 24 tous sont hauts, et égaux, au lieu que chez 619 le 2—22 sont hauts, égaux. D. 41. Lobe sup. caudal prolongé, lobes séparés, trois rayons au melieu. Ventr. d'épassant l'anus et la hauteur du corps. Couleur de la dorsale uniforme. Je n'ai pas noté dans 619 que la 1er rayon fut raboteux, à la dorsale.”

In honor of the gentleman who has thus distinguished the species, it may take the name of *ALEPIDOSAURUS (CAULOPUS) POEYI*.

### On a new Species of *PRIACANTHUS* discovered in Narragansett Bay, R. I.

BY THEODORE GILL.

During a recent visit to Philadelphia, I discovered in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, a species of *Priacanthus*, which was at once discovered to be most nearly allied to a species of Japan. In the same bottle was a note confirming the label and giving the following information: “From Mr. Philip Caswell; taken at Cananicut Ferry, Narragansett Bay, Sept., 1860. Color like Gold Fish.” I am assured by Dr. Bridges, one of the principal ichthyologists of Philadelphia, that he is himself conversant with the circumstances of its discovery, and that there can be no doubt of the fact of its having been found in Rhode Island as well as *Sarothrodus maculo-cinctus* and *Hyporthodus flavicauda*, described in a previous number of these Proceedings, from the same State.

The species may be named

#### *PRIACANTHUS ALTUS* Gill.

The height of the body equals about a half of the total length, inclusive of the caudal fin. The head forms more than a third of the same. The diameter of the eye in the young specimens is contained 2½ times in the head's length. The posterior nasal aperture is a long curved slit. The angle of the preoperculum is armed with a strong spine passing beyond the branchial aperture. The caudal fin truncated; the spines of the dorsal and anal fins longitudinally striated. The scales are proportionally large. The whole body is rough.

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The body appears to have been reddish or rose colored; behind and at the pectoral region, the color is plumbeous, but perhaps accidentally so. The dorsal fin has its spinous portion punctulated with very numerous blackish dots, and with two rows of large roundish clear spots, besides a row of smaller basal ones and one of similar small spots near the margin; the diameter of the large spots nearly equals the space between adjoining spines. The soft portion of the dorsal, as well as the anal and caudal fins, are more or less dotted with blackish; the spinous portion of the anal also so thickly covered as to be blackish. The pectoral fins are entirely blackish, the dots being densely crowded.

The specimen is little more than an inch (1 1-5) in length.

[March,

There can be no doubt as to the validity of this species, as it widely differs in the number of its rays from all except one otherspecies of *Priacanthus*, and especially from the formerly known American ones. The only species which resembles it in the number of the rays of the fins is a Japanese species—the *Priacanthus nipponius* of Cuvier and Valenciennes, and the Fauna Japonica. In other respects also the Japanese and North American species are closely related. The form is nearly similar but the height even greater in ours than in the *Priacanthus nipponius*, and consequently exceeding that of any other known species of the genus; the scales of the body and head are very rough; the ventral fins in the young, at least, entirely blackish; the spinous portion of the anal fin is also very dark. It is probable that the species undergoes a change of color somewhat similar to the *Priacanthus nipponius*.

The discovery of three new species of fishes on the coast of Rhode Island, all representing forms almost entirely confined to warmer seas, in such rapid succession, is an event of no little interest and importance. The specimens obtained were all young; single examples only were found of the *Sarothrodus* (*Chatozon* auct.) *maculo-cinctus* and the *Priacanthus*, and two of the *Hyporhodus flavicauda*. They were all doubtless brought to the New England shores by the Gulf Stream, which runs near the Rhode Island coast, and in which the traveller often finds small fishes, as well as other animals, of which the Isopod Crustacean, described below by Dr. Stimpson, is an example. None of the three species of fishes previously mentioned have yet been seen in the West Indian seas, where they will undoubtedly be hereafter found. It is important also to compare the discovery of these fishes on our own northern shores with the discovery on the Scandinavian and Greenland coasts of forms equally characteristic of the tropics. In another article I will allude to the analogy between the denizens of the Carribean and Japanese seas.

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On an oceanic ISOPOD found near the south-eastern shores of Massachusetts.

BY WM. STIMPSON.

In the summer of 1859, while cruising among the south-eastern islands of Massachusetts in company with my friends Dr. Slack and Mr. Ordway, we approached the shores of the beautiful island of Martha's Vineyard—the Isle of Wight of New England. When becalmed in the Vineyard Sound north of Gay Head, we were occupied in observing the small medusæ and other pelagic animals which appeared near the surface of the water. Among them we noticed some pretty blue isopods quite new to our shores, which reminded me of forms which I had met with in the temperate parts of both great oceans. They were swimming at the surface and could be easily distinguished from the deck of our boat, even at some distance, by the ripple they made in their progress. Several of them were caught, and found to be *Idothea* of that oceanic type which has the habits of the miniature sailors *Physalia*, *Velella* and *Janthina*, which are occasionally cast upon our south-eastern shores. It proves to be

IDOTHEA ROBUSTA Kr.

Body strongly convex, two and two-thirds as long as broad, and broadest at the fifth thoracic segment; lateral outline convex at the thorax, but somewhat concave at the abdomen. Surface pubescent. Inner antennæ reaching to the penultimate joint of the peduncle of the outer ones, which are less than one-half the length of the body. Thoracic segments protuberant, and laterally somewhat rugose; their epimera large, distinct and rather sharply projecting. Abdomen strongly three-jointed, with partial separation of a  
1862.]